



Trips Outside of Pilsen

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Pilsen offers an array of rich cultural experiences, interesting historic sites, and both beer and food experiences. If you decide to stay for a longer trip, then you'll find loads of places where you can rest from the hustle and bustle of the big city. We've got plenty of tips for family trips, and not by car but also by train, bus, and bike. You'll find a little of everything in the Pilsen Region – romantic castles and chateaus, a mini zoo, intriguing local museums, and towns and villages full of monuments and history. The tips and specific places are arranged by location. So let's go on a trip!



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→ OTHER TIPS

PASK – Pavilon skla
(Pavilion of Glass)
Galerie U Bílého jednorožce
(Gallery at the White Unicorn)

TOWN OF KLATOVY

→ Less than an hour by car south of Pilsen, you'll find Klatovy, the town seen as the gate to the Bohemian Forest. The moment you arrive in the historic centre of this royal town, you'll notice the many towers and spires. The Black Tower is the tallest one. You can go to its top and enjoy the view of the surrounding area. Aside from the Black Tower, you'll also find the White Tower in Klatovy. It stands but a few steps from the main square, along the path leading to the park along the old city walls. After you've enjoyed the view, head over to the Baroque chemist's U Bílého jednorožce. Original pharmaceutical equipment and expositions from the Chemist's Museum can be admired here. The catacombs under the Jesuit church dominating the main square are also worth visiting. Aside from other interesting items here, you'll discover a total of 38 mummified bodies preserved in original crypts.

Practical tips

You can park in the paid car park directly on the main city square (náměstí Míru). There are many pleasant restaurants and cafes here, and you can comfortably travel to Klatovy from Pilsen by train or bus.

Where else to visit in the area?

On your way, don't forget to visit the Švihov Water Castle, where the beloved fairy tale Three Wishes for Cinderella was filmed. During the tourist season, guided tours are held here, but you can also choose to see only the castle's courtyard or walk around the moat. Another interesting place near Klatovy is Klenová Castle and its open-air gallery with modern art.



HORŠOVSKÝ TÝN CASTLE

→ Lovers of romantic chateaus and history should take a trip to the Renaissance Horšovský Týn Castle. During the main season, you can choose from several tour routes or a guided tour of the castle park. You should also take a walk around the Church of St. Peter and Paul in the centre, which is full of picturesque Gothic and Renaissance townhouses. Not far from the centre of Horšovský Týn, you'll find yourself surrounded by pleasant nature at the new, modern outdoor swimming pool with two pools, water attractions, and slides.

Practical tips

Buses regularly go from Pilsen to Horšovský Týn. If you choose to arrive at the castle by car, then the best place to park is at the spacious car park within the castle complex. On the main square, there are multiple restaurants and a confectionary.

Where else to visit in the area?

If you're going by car, you can make a stop at the monumental Baroque Chotěšov Abbey, which is located just outside of Pilsen along the way to Horšovský Týn.



BEER AND BIKE RIDES TO DOBŘANY

- One of the oldest towns in the region is Dobřany, which lies south of Pilsen on the Radbuza River. Here, you can walk through the beautiful and historical city square with an array of Baroque monuments and two churches. The Church of St. Nicholas draws you in with its freestanding tower, while the rooms in the Church of St. Vitus are used as a gallery featuring the permanent exhibit Baroque Dobřany. We recommend the main square as a place to rest and find something to eat or drink, perhaps at the Modrá hvězda (Blue Star) brewery. Upon arrangement, you can tour the brewhouse and the brewery cellar.

Practical tips

You can park your car directly on the main square (náměstí T. G. M.). And if you end up spending more time than expected tasting beer at the local brewery, you can easily take the train back to Pilsen.

Where else to visit in the area?

Combine your trip to Dobřany with a visit to the non-traditional observation mound Šlovický vrch with its natural reserve and wild horses. And not far from Dobřany, you'll find a beautiful spot in the open countryside with mystical Stone Spirals (Vstišské kamenné spirály). You can see the peaks of the Upper Palatine Forest from the Křížový vrch, an original pilgrimage site with a small church turned into an observation tower.

You can ride your bike
directly from Pilsen's
city centre to Dobřany:



→ OTHER TIPS

Swimming at the Kotynka biotope
Mini zoo Farmapark Dobřany





TOWN OF STŘÍBRO AND THE KLADRUBY MONASTERY

- The most beautiful sites in the town of Stříbro are the Renaissance Town Hall and the Minorite monastery with expositions from the local museum as well as the garden parks of the All Saints Church and its observation tower. The tower is open to visitors and offers a wonderful panoramic view of the town and the Mže River valley. The Renaissance stone bridge is a real unique structure, guarded by a decorated bridge gate. Stříbro also boasts a rich history of mining. The town is interwoven with a system of ore tunnels to a depth of dozens of metres. Visitors are enticed by the underground tunnel Prokop and the mining folk museum with its mining machinery exhibit and mine train.
- When taking a trip here, also be sure to visit the nearby Kladruby Monastery, designed by Baroque architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel. You'll get to know the monastery and chateau on any of the tour routes. You can also choose the special tour dedicated to Santini's architecture. You'll even discover a unique sensory exhibition with various fragrances and perfumes.

Practical tips

If you want to visit the Prokop mine and folk museum as a family, then admission is suitable for children ages 6 and older, and all tours must be arranged by calling in advance (+420 606 634 220). You can easily take the train from Pilsen to Stříbro or drive there and park on the main square.

Where else to visit in the area?

Military history enthusiasts can visit the Museum of Czechoslovak Fortification Kladruby, which offers also a beautiful view of the monastery.



AN ALL-DAY TRIP TO HRACHOLUSKY RESERVOIR

→ Do you love natural swimming, sailing, water attractions, and sports? Then don't hesitate to take a trip to Hracholusky Reservoir, the ideal recreation spot. It's located in the beautifully romantic valley of the Mže River, about half an hour by car from Pilsen. Here you'll find grassy beaches with easy access to the sand and water, camping, and food options on both shores of the reservoir. Camp Radost with its water slide is a popular spot for families with kids. Along the reservoir's embankment, you can play minigolf, tennis, and beach volleyball. Water sports enthusiasts are sure to love the yachting, scuba diving, and paddleboarding options. And a true phenomenon of the reservoir is a pleasure cruise in a steamboat. In the summer months, it sets off from the car-camp marina on the embankment and makes six stops along its 20-kilometre-long expedition.

Practical tips

Entrance to the reservoir is free. If you're coming from Pilsen by train, get off at the Plešnice or Pňovany stops; both are located close by. You'll discover the area around the Hracholusky Reservoir best from the seat of your bike along bike path no. 37, which goes all the way to Pilsen. Keep in mind that the path's elevation profile can be a bit challenging and some sections around the reservoir are unpaved.

Where else to visit in the area?

Hracholusky Valley is surrounded by rock walls and forests inviting you to take a stroll. On the right bank of the Mže, the ruins of the Gothic Buben Castle can be found. On foot, the castle is most easily accessible from the Plešnice train station. Then there's the Pňovany Railway Bridge, offering an adrenaline-filled visit with a unique view. It's the third of the tallest bridges in the country and it directly crosses the reservoir; you can come here on foot or by bike using the adjacent footbridge.

KAOLIN MINE NEVŘEŇ

→ Not far from Pilsen and 15 km in the direction of Karlovy Vary, you'll find the village of Nevřeň and its former underground kaolin mine from the 19th century. The starting point is in the Centrum Caolinum Nevřeň with its exposition dedicated to the unique type of deep kaolin mining and further processing of the mineral. Tours of the mine are held every weekend from April to November, and it's best to book tickets in advance. Once here, you'll walk through the original mining tunnels, some of which are 12 metres high and 6 metres wide, and your guide will tell you everything you need to know about the local miners' work methods and kaolin mining.

Practical tips

Feel free to visit the Centrum Caolinum Nevřeň with children, admission is permitted to kids from the age of 4 and older. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and warm clothing, as temperatures in the mine is around 10 °C. You can travel to Nevřeň from Pilsen by bus in about 20 minutes, but there is also parking available here.

Where else to visit in the area?

Either on your way to Nevřeň or on your way back, be sure to stop at the largest and still functional kaolin mine in Kaznějov. The mine isn't open to the public, however, the imposing view from the edge of the mine can be enjoyed from the road between Kaznějov and Mrtník.





MONASTERY OF PLASY

→ The town of Plasy located in the north of the Pilsen Region is primarily known for its expansive Baroque monastery complex by builder and architect Santini. It's unique because it stands on oak pillars embedded in the swampy subsoil. The monastery offers several tour routes and you can visit the actual convent, the clock tower, the Baroque chapel, the Stretti Gallery, the pharmaceutical exhibits, and the contemporary art exposition. Across from the monastery, you'll find the St. Wenceslas Church and its Metternich family cemetery, where the remains of this famous lineage and those of the prince himself are kept.

Practical tips

You can park your car for free in the public car park near the pond in the town centre. From here, you can easily walk to all the sites. You can also travel comfortably from Pilsen to Plasy and back by train or bus.

Where else to visit in the area?

If travelling with kids, head on over to the nearby adventure golf. This minigolf course offers thematic holes from various corners of the world, while a smaller, private zoo can also be found here. And if you arrive by train, then there's nothing to hold you back from closing your trip with a few craft beers from the local Knížecí brewery.

→ OTHER TIPS

Natural, outdoor swimming pool Plasy
Centre for Building Heritage



MANĚTÍN CHATEAU AND MARIÁNSKÁ TÝNICE

- The Pilsen Region is full of incredible Baroque monuments. To the north of Pilsen lies the town of Manětín, which will enthral you with its sheer number of such structures. Most attention is drawn to the terraced city square, complete with a chateau, the Church of St. John the Baptist, Baroque townhomes, the Holy Trinity sculptures, and the cemetery Church of St. Barbara. Chateau Manětín reached a peak during the Baroque period. The chateau is certainly worth a tour but so is the English-style park and the non-traditional chateau entrance, which is lined with a series of Baroque statues.
- The provostry in Mariánská Týnice, designed by architect Jan Blažej Santini, unequivocally stands amongst the most precious Baroque structures in the country. The permanent exposition in the local Museum and Gallery of the North Pilsen Region will guide you through traditional village life while also displaying Gothic and Baroque art. It's located about 35 km north of Pilsen. The local arboretum, full of old and original varieties of fruit trees, is also worth visiting.

Practical tips

Don't miss the events held at the Baroque sites around Pilsen every year as a part of the Summer Baroque Festival.

Where else to visit in the area?

During the summer, we recommend cooling off at the local outdoor swimming pool in Manětín, where you can enjoy a pleasant swim and some good food. There's also a playground here and a paddling pool for children. One of the beautiful little villages near Manětín is Luková with its Church of St. George. The church is uncommonly popular thanks to its unique statues of spirits that symbolise the figures of Sudeten Germans who once lived in the village. A few kilometres from Manětín, you'll find the town of Rabštejn nad Střelou and its Gothic bridge, Loreto, chateau, and picturesque homes and timbered houses.



FARMPARK U TOMA

→ You'll find Farmpark u Toma in the town of Ledce, about 5 km north of Pilsen, surrounded by nature. It holds 20 different animal species and is set up as a petting zoo, meaning you can enter most of the pens and meet the animals face to face, pet them, and feed them treats purchased from the dispenser. Children of all ages can also play on the multiple playgrounds and giant trampoline here. Or you can set off on the educational path leading to a sandy mountain. While at the main desk, you can learn when the guided tours and feedings are being held or even arrange a pony ride.

Practical tips

The Farmpark complex is also suitable for prams, the local bistro is open and serving meals all day long, and you can park your car for free in the car park near the entrance.

Where else to visit in the area?

On your way to the Farmpark, you can take a small detour to the Krkavec Observation Tower, where you'll enjoy a view over Pilsen in its entirety. Park your car at the start of the path leading to the tower and continue on foot along the asphalt path, ideal for prams. You'll then find a bistro and a children's playground below the observation tower.



AIR PARK ZRUČ

→ In the small technical museum Air Park located in the town of Zruč just outside of Pilsen, you'll discover a unique private collection of aerial and military vehicles. Some of the most interesting pieces include the TU-154M government aircraft, the fighter jets and helicopters, and the tanks from WWII. You can look inside some of the machines on your own, while others are only accessible with a guide and in a limited quantity of visitors. The museum is suitable for kids, however, they won't be allowed to touch some of the museum pieces; these parts are maybe more suited to experts and fans of military vehicles.

Practical tips

The entire museum complex is outdoors. You can arrive at the Air Park by car and park directly at the museum. From Pilsen's city centre, you can take bus no. 20 to its final stop in Zruč-Senec, which is only a short walk away from the museum. There's also a paved bike path that leads to Zruč around the Bolevec Ponds and through Třemošná.





ZBIROH CHATEAU

→ The oldest royal seat in Bohemia, the deepest well in Europe, and the oldest preserved freestanding watch-tower in the country. These are the main attractions at the Renaissance Zbiroh Chateau, which lies on the edge of the Brdy Mountains and was once owned by an array of kings and emperors. During the chateau tour, you'll visit the painter Alfons Mucha's atelier, where he created most of his works, including *The Slav Epic*. The second tour route will lead you outside, where you'll discover the original spaces of the Romanesque-Gothic castle. For children, there's a rope-climbing park, giant chess, and a playground open during the summer season.

Practical tips

There is a car park open to visitors directly inside the chateau complex. You can also spend the night in the chateau and enjoy a meal in the Medieval tavern.

Trip ideas when travelling to and from Prague

Zbiroh is located on the border of two regions, making it an easy place to visit when leaving or heading to Prague. And because even the journey can be the destination, we've prepared some tips for you on various places of interest along this route. Check Visit Pilsen website for more tips.



Check Visit Pilsen
website for more tips:



TOWN OF ROKYCANY

- Rokycany is a town known for the demarcation line, which dictated where the American and Soviet armies could operate towards the end of WWII. It is commemorated by the private military Museum on the Demarcation Line. The museum complex also features an experience-based, educational path that takes visitors into the underground corridors and replicas of structures that once served as border fortifications. You can admire also a lot of other places in Rokycany: local Town Hall, the Trinity Church, the Marian Column, and the beautiful Art-Nouveau villa built according to architect B. Ryšavý's blueprint. And the exhibits at the Museum of Dr. Bohuslav Horák will teach you about traditional trades of the Rokycany region: iron milling, nailsmithing, and iron production.

Practical tips

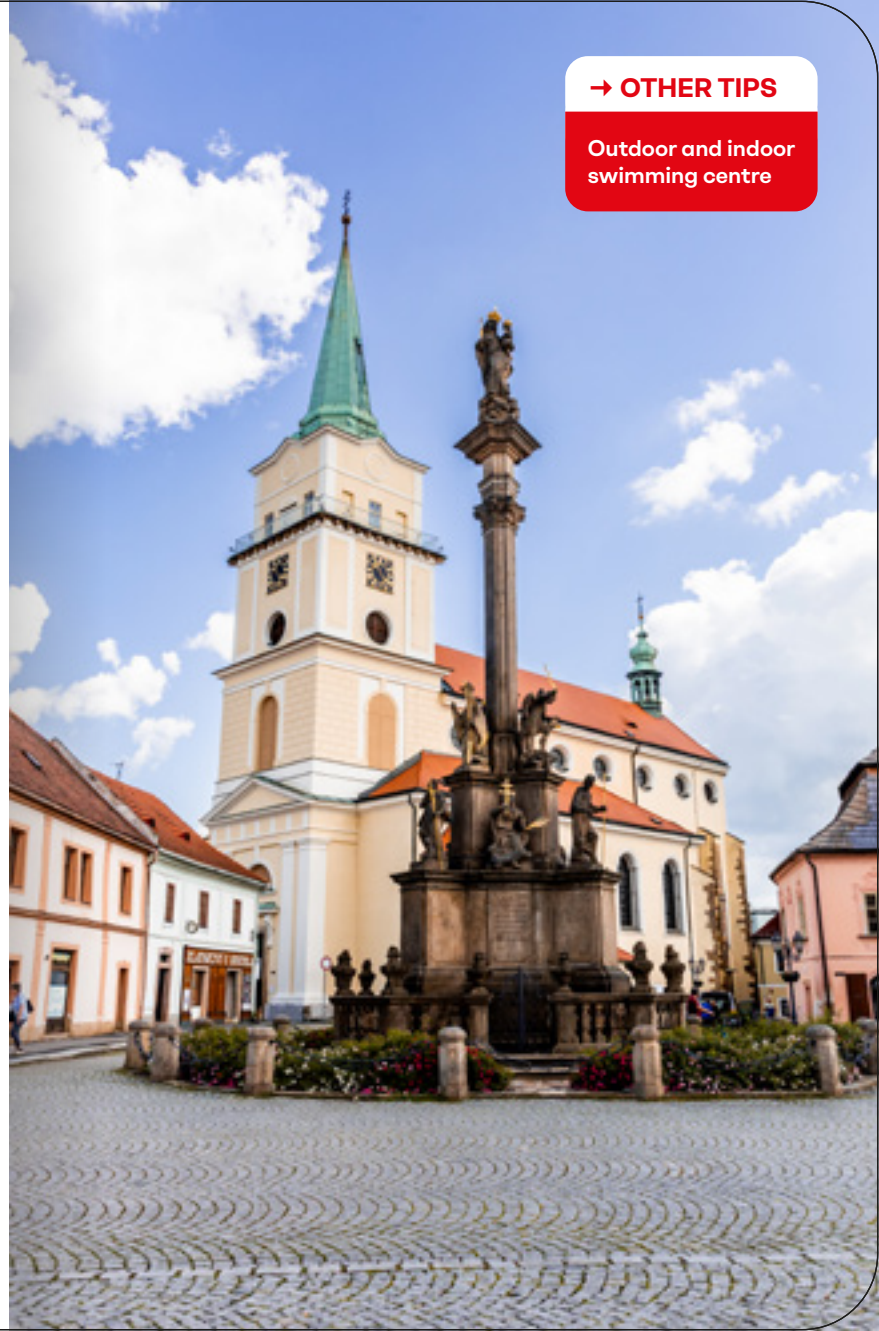
Right on the main square, you can visit the Tourist Information Centre to receive various maps and tips on everything worth seeing in the area. You can easily park your car in the city centre, or comfortably take the train from Pilsen to Rokycany.

Where else to visit in the area?

Close by Rokycany, the village of Dobřív hides a unique technical monument: the Water Hammer Mill from the 19th century. In the winter months, only the exterior is accessible; in the summer season, you can enjoy a lively display of the blacksmithing craft as well as the entire water-wheel system which drives the hammer. Or for some lovely views, head on over to the Kotel Observation Tower. Leave your car in the car park at the bottom of the hill before continuing on foot along the 1.5 km path to the modern, panoramic viewpoint. The tower is freely accessible.

→ OTHER TIPS

Outdoor and indoor swimming centre



TOWN OF STARÝ PLZENEC

→ The train ride from Pilsen to Starý Plzenec takes about 11 minutes, making it the ideal destination for an afternoon trip. To make your way to this area's dominant feature, the Romanesque Rotunda of St. Peter and Paul, take the pleasant 30-minute walk from the train station. The journey will lead you across the main square and by its Church of St. John the Baptist. Leaving the square, head to the rotunda along the yellow path, where you'll enjoy beautiful views of the opposite hills and Radyně Castle. Aside from the rotunda, the foundations of two churches and a Medieval hillfort still remain. If you're planning on staying in Starý Plzenec for a bit longer, then reserve in advance a tour of the wine-making factory Bohemia Sekt, where you'll get to experience a wine-tasting of our most famous sparkling wine. Another option is to hike up to and tour the remains of Radyně Castle.

Practical tips

In the lower part of Radyně Castle, you'll find a car park, an Information Centre, and a pleasant restaurant. If you're travelling to Starý Plzenec by car, you can also park in the town centre.

Bike trip idea

Give our time-tested bike path a try (even suitable for children), which will take you from the Pilsen city centre along the Úslava River. The path goes primarily through nature areas and features many stops ideal for both kids and adults. In Starý Plzenec, you can leave your bikes in the bike stand on the main square. Check our website for detailed information about the trip.



CHATEAUS IN THE SOUTH PILSEN REGION

- To the south of Pilsen, you can quickly find two picturesque chateaus. In Nebílový, you can visit a one of-a-kind Baroque chateau. During the tour, you'll learn the history of its building and of its original owner, and you'll find out about its challenging renovation efforts. You're sure to be interested in the unique interior decoration and furniture, which are united by fantastic floral and animal motifs. Then there's the Chapel of St. Anthony for you to visit, as well as the gallery.
- If you like walking through well-kept chateau gardens, then head over to the classicistic Kozel Manor House. While visiting the building's interior, you'll discover rooms decorated with period décor and the chateau's theatre. Finish your trip with a pleasant stroll through the adjacent park with a pond.

Practical tips

Both chateaus are accessible by bus, while Kozel is also accessible by train. Leave the train station in Štáhlavy and follow the 2.5 km path along a historic avenue directly to the chateau park. The path is also suitable for prams. A ticket is necessary to enter the Kozel Manor House. It can be purchased from the ticket machine located in the car park near the entrance.



OBSERVATION TOWERS

→ Love a good view? Then pay attention! You may get the idea that because Pilsen is located in a valley of four rivers, it doesn't have any traditional viewpoints, but the exact opposite is true. You'll find many observation towers in Pilsen's direct surroundings, offering stunning views of the Brdy, Bohemian Forest, and Upper Palatine Forest mountain peaks. We particularly recommend visiting the Chlum, Krkavec, and Sylván observation towers.

Scan the QR code for
more tips on views
over Pilsen



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- You can travel through Pilsen's surroundings by train and bus. We recommend verifying all public transportation times at www.idos.cz.
- To easily travel through Pilsen's surroundings, we recommend purchasing the single-day, transfer ticket "Turista Plzeňskem". This ticket allows you to travel through the entire Pilsen Region for one day, using all connections operated by the Pilsen Region. The ticket costs 140 CZK (for individuals) and 360 CZK (for the whole family), and you can even opt for the ticket that includes public transport within the city of Pilsen. You can purchase your ticket at the main desk at the Main Railway Station.

PILSEN REGION



Mobile audio guide SmartGuide
Free download



Tourist Information Centres Visit Pilsen

Opening hours:

MON-SAT / 9:00-18:00

SUN / 9:00-15:00

Branches:

City centre (náměstí Republiky 41)

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